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**Amendment to the Claims**

Claims 1 - 39 (Canceled)

40. (Original): A method for screening for yeast capable of producing ASA comprising the steps of

- (a) obtaining yeast capable of growing on ascorbic acid or ascorbic acid stereoisomer,
- (b) culturing said yeast in the presence of 2-keto-L-gulononic acid (KLG) KLG under conditions suitable for the production of ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer; and
- (c) assaying said yeast culture for the production of ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer.

41. (New): The method according to claim 41, wherein the yeast is a member of the Imperfect yeast group.

42. (New): The method according to claim 41, wherein the yeast is a member of the family Cryptococcaceae.

43. (New): The method according to claim 42, wherein the yeast is a *Candida*.

44. (New): The method according to claim 42, wherein the yeast is a *Cryptococcus*.

45. (New): The method according to claim 42, wherein the yeast is *Candida blankii*.

46. (New): The method according to claim 42, wherein the yeast is *Cryptococcus dimennae*.

47. (New): The method according to claim 40, wherein KLG is the sole carbon source in the culture.

48. (New): The method according to claim 40, wherein the ascorbic acid stereoisomer is D-ascorbic acid, D-araboascorbic acid or L-araboascorbic acid.

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